

an unemployment rate that outstripped the national average, poor schools with alarming dropout rates, and no decent or affordable housing. The first grants to address the Bradhurst area were received from Local Initiative Support Corporation and leveraged donations raised through special church collections. The organization used the Industrial Areas Foundation method of developing an organization. Since then, HCCI's community service has been reversing these conditions concurrently, block by block.

From welfare-to-work training and placement, to adult basic education and GED prep (in collaboration with Literacy Partners), HCCI has helped hundreds of Harlem residents prepare for the workforce through its Office of Human Capital Development and trains still others to become licensed family childcare providers. Other job readiness services include computer training at HCCI's Career and Technology Center, and collaborations with Literacy Partners. The Intel Computer Clubhouse trained neighborhood kids in web design so well that they won a grant to create a Web site on the negative effects of tobacco. The city's building trade industry has welcomed graduates of the Construction Trades Academy where students learn valuable skills in construction work, including handling hazardous materials such as asbestos abatement and lead paint control.

HCCI's customer service training program proved valuable for residents who were hired at the new Pathmark Supermarket at 145th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. Part of a \$42 million real estate initiative, HCCI's Office of Real Estate Development broke ground on the market and a 126-unit co-operative apartment complex in the heart of the Bradhurst neighborhood. Indeed, quality affordable housing has been the centerpiece of HCCI's services to the community from the very beginning. To date, approximately 2,000 units of affordable housing have been built through innovative cross sector collaborations with city and State elected officials, the NYC Housing Development Corporation, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, a host of banking institutions that include JPMorganChase, Citicorp, Roslyn Savings, the Bank of New York, Bank of America, Wachovia and Washington Mutual. Embarking on the Equitable Development initiative, JP Morgan Chase's Community Development competition awarded the \$25,000 top prize to three New School University graduate students to create an architectural design that would transform the Erbograph Building on 146th Street into a new community facility space for some of HCCI's offices and housing for the elderly.

One of the more damaging health care crises of the twentieth century has been the AIDS epidemic. Communities of color have been the hardest hit. African-American men and women are nine times more likely to die from the disease than white AIDS patients. In 2004, Central Harlem recorded 218 newly diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS. HCCI began to educate Harlem residents about HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and more recently created a pilot program called the Community Organizations and Congregations for Health Institute (COACH), offering technical assistance to five faith-based institutions to help them start nonprofits to sustain their HIV prevention services. For the past seven years, HCCI has hosted the Balm in Gilead/Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. HCCI increases awareness through street education and outreach, presentations and workshops, and their growing Health Resource Library. HCCI's scattersite housing initiative has proved effective in housing HIV/AIDS patients, many of whom were homeless. Food stamp access programs

and other services funded by the city's Human Resources Administration have helped restore them to more productive lives.

The question is always asked whether the church can be an agent for change if it is facing all of the previously mentioned challenges. It is an uphill battle to be sure. But HCCI's 100-church membership has proven that with God's help it can be done.

THE APPOINTMENT OF EVE J. HIGGINBOTHAM, M.D. AS DEAN OF THE MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her appointment as the new Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham has long been a valued member of my Health Advisory Committee, where she has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities.

Dr. Higginbotham received her S.B. and S.M. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her M.D. from the Harvard Medical School. In 1994, Dr. Higginbotham was appointed as Chair of the Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Department at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, becoming the first woman in the United States to head a university-based ophthalmology department. Previously, she served on the University of Illinois faculty as Chief of the Glaucoma Clinic and an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Higginbotham has also served on numerous boards, including those of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Helen Keller Foundation. Her strong commitment to improving health care is evident from her work with the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, where as Director of Outreach Services she established a program through which medical students screen patients in their communities for glaucoma. The program, Student Sight Savers, has been a great success and is currently in operation at more than thirty medical schools nationwide.

Throughout her career, Dr. Higginbotham has received numerous awards and honors, including the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award in 2004. She has received the Suzanne Veroneaux-Troutman Award and the Roman Barnes Achievement Award. She has consistently been listed among the Best Doctors in Baltimore and America for over a decade.

The Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is an historically black institution established to recruit and train physicians, scientists, and public health professionals committed to primary health care. Founded in 1975, the Morehouse School of Medicine admitted its first class in 1978, became an independent, four-year medical school in 1981, and was fully accredited in 1985. Since its founding, it has graduated 602 physicians, 68 percent of whom are primary care practitioners and 84 percent of whom practice in economically depressed areas. I am confident that Dr.

Higginbotham will help continue and further shape the legacy of the Morehouse School of Medicine as it works to fulfill the needs of America's underserved communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Higginbotham is both a renowned expert in her field and an outstanding public servant. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate Dr. Eve J. Higginbotham on her new role as Dean and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. This week, Maryland's loss is Atlanta's gain, and I wish to stand with the many Marylanders who are grateful to Dr. Higginbotham for her tremendous service to our community.

HONORING PVT. JODY MISSILDINE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, Pvt. Jody Missildine. Tragically, on April 8, 2006, Jody was killed while serving in Tal Afar, Iraq. He was 19 years old.

Jody's dream was to see the world and one day go to college. However, he selflessly did not want to burden his grandparents, Shirley and Melvin, with the financial responsibility that comes with world travel and a four-year degree. He saw the Armed Forces as the best way to achieve his goals, and most importantly, on his own terms. So while still attending high school, Jody signed up for the Army and immediately following his graduation, he left his home in Plant City, Florida, to begin his service to our nation.

Soon Jody's division was deployed to Iraq and despite being several thousand miles away from each other, Jody did his best to stay close to the family he loved so dearly, calling home nearly every week. Always concerned for the well-being of others, Jody rarely spoke about the daily events in Iraq, but rather, he focused his attention on the safety of his family. On Friday, April 7, Jody expressed concerns about Iraq to his grandmother, or Nanna as he called her, during their telephone conversation. Sadly, the next day while on patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, an explosive device detonated near his convoy and killed Jody.

Jody embodied everything that this great country stands for: integrity, hard work, determination, and compassion. He always put others ahead of himself and I am honored to know that this fine young man helped ensure America's continuing independence and security.

Mr. Speaker, as we have seen throughout the history of this nation, freedom is not free; it comes with a heavy price. The sacrifices of brave men and women like Jody have guaranteed this country's continuing liberty. And just as Jody did all he could to protect his family while he was alive, I know he is watching over them from heaven.

I know words can not help fill the emptiness that the Missildine family feels from the loss of Jody. However, I hope they take solace in knowing that our nation is truly stronger and greater for having a man of Jody's character serve it.

May God bless the Missildine family and may He continue to watch over the United States of America.